

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 1-37 (Canceled)

1 38. (New) A computer implemented client method for dynamically managing
2 a user software license, the method comprising:
3 receiving an action from the user to access a feature from one or more
4 features of a software program;
5 responsive to receiving the action from the user, sending a request to a
6 server to access the feature of the software program, the request
7 including identification information concerning the user, and
8 license verification information concerning the user;
9 receiving current software license information concerning the user from
10 the server; and
11 storing received current software license information concerning the user.

1 39. (New) The method of claim 38 wherein the received current software
2 license information concerning the user indicates that the user is not licensed to run the
3 software program, the method further comprising performing at least one step from a
4 group of steps comprising:
5 displaying a message to the user indicating that the user is not licensed to
6 run the software program;

7 providing the user with an opportunity to purchase a license to run the
8 software program;
9 allowing the user to run the software program without a license for a
10 limited time only;
11 allowing the user to run the software program without a license a limited
12 number of times only; and
13 terminating the software program, such that the user cannot run the
14 software program.

1 40. (New) The client method of claim 38 wherein:
2 the received current software license information concerning the user
3 comprises modified license information concerning the user.

1 41. (New) The client method of claim 40 wherein the modified license
2 information concerning the user comprises a user software license from a group of user
3 software licenses comprising:
4 an activated user software license;
5 a deactivated user software license;
6 an extended user software license;
7 a restricted user software license;
8 an upgraded user software license; and
9 a downgraded user software license.

1 42. (New) The client method of claim 38 wherein receiving current software
2 license information concerning the user includes a hardware configuration identifier of a
3 computer associated with the user, the method further comprising:
4 creating a current hardware configuration identifier of the computer
5 associated with the user; and
6 comparing the received hardware configuration identifier to the current
7 hardware configuration identifier.

1 43. (New) The client method of claim 42 further comprising:
2 responsive to the received hardware configuration identifier being
3 acceptably similar to the current hardware configuration
4 identifier, allowing the user to run the software program.

1 44. (New) The client method of claim 42 further comprising:
2 responsive to the received hardware configuration identifier not
3 being acceptably similar to the current hardware
4 configuration identifier, terminating the software program,
5 such that the user cannot run the software program.

1 45. (New) The client method of claim 42 further comprising:
2 responsive to the received hardware configuration identifier not being
3 acceptably similar to the current hardware configuration identifier,
4 performing at least one step from a group of steps comprising:
5 displaying a message to the user indicating that the user is not
6 licensed to run the software program;
7 providing the user with an opportunity to purchase a license to run
8 the software program;
9 allowing the user to run the software program without a license for
10 a limited time only; and
11 allowing the user to run the software program without a license a limited
12 number of times only.

1 46. (New) A computer program product for dynamically managing a user
2 software license, the computer program product comprising:
3 a processor;
4 a memory;

5 program code for receiving an action from the user to access a feature
6 from one or more features of a software program;
7 program code for, responsive to receiving the action from the user, sending
8 a request to a server to access the feature of the software program,
9 the request including identification information concerning the
10 user, and license verification information concerning the user;
11 program code for receiving current software license information
12 concerning the user from the server;
13 program code for storing received current software license information
14 concerning the user; and
15 a computer readable medium on which the program codes are stored.

1 47. (New) A computer system for dynamically managing a user software
2 license, the computer system comprising:
3 means for receiving an action from the user to access a feature from one
4 or more features of a software program;
5 means for, responsive to receiving the action from the user, sending a
6 request to a server to access the feature of the software program,
7 the request including identification information concerning the
8 user, and license verification information concerning the user;
9 means for receiving current software license information concerning the
10 user from the server; and
11 means for storing received current software license information concerning the
12 user.